West Pointers Are Singing It in Mexico Just as the Men Who Fought With Scott Did Many Years Ago

We'll never fail to drink to her and to those caught running the blockade. Havens without the color and the

Wherever Duty called they went, their with Alma Mater on their lips, and "Benny Havens, Oh!"

"Benny Havens, Oh!" is the epic of West Point. It is a story in song. sacrifices for duty, honor, West Point and country.

This old academy of West Point, hid out on a rugged shelf overlook-ing the majestic sweep of the Hudhas many prized traditions, unlied, inalienable, but none more red to her sons than that of Benny vens. Go to Cullum Memorial Hall West Point and read in imperishher sons. She has seen them march of her sallyports singing "Benny Havens, Oh!" and seen them brought back while minute guns were echoing mong the granite hills that surround The history of West Point is losely interwoven with that of our untry: West Pointers have written right pages in the annals of the

and Northern wilds of snow. Has stained Sierra's highest peaks, where piercing winds e'er blow; as dyed deep red the Everglades, and

deeper still, you know. The sacred Montezuma shades and walls of Mexico. Wherever duty has summoned them

West Pointers have carried "Benny Havens, Oh!" It was sung by the en who led armies into Mexico under Scott, by those who gathered around the campfires in Virginia in the '60s; was sung on the bleak plains in the Indian wars, in the stiffing Cuban fungles, in the Philippine morasses, wherever American soldiers have campaigned. And no doubt when dusk deserts there is more than one West inter, saddle wearied and dusty, who hegins to hum this much loved song.

The story of Benny Havens is almost as old as that of the academy tiself. Many, many years ago, in 1824 to be precise, Benny Havens took up of what then constituted the post of West Point. Almost immediately he and the cadets became friends.

He was a gental soul, generous, fond of good company and an inimitable pinner of yarns, and he invariably ited his visitors with buckwheat rakes and maple syrup. Soon his rereshments acquired such fame that adets often slipped away from their luties and made their way to Benny's retreat, where they found oblivion for heir disciplinary woes. Almost every ight after taps saw half a dozen darng cadets, who should have been in gathered around Benny's bounti-

fare confine itself to buckwheat cakes and maple syrup. Grog and wine were dded to the menu, an addition where-Benny's popularity increased ten-About this time the West Point thorities, who had previously shut ir eyes to Benny's liberalities, declare a blockade on Benny in so far as cadets were concerned, and consecame "off limits" for the future generals and punishment was meted out

Benny Havens, Oh:

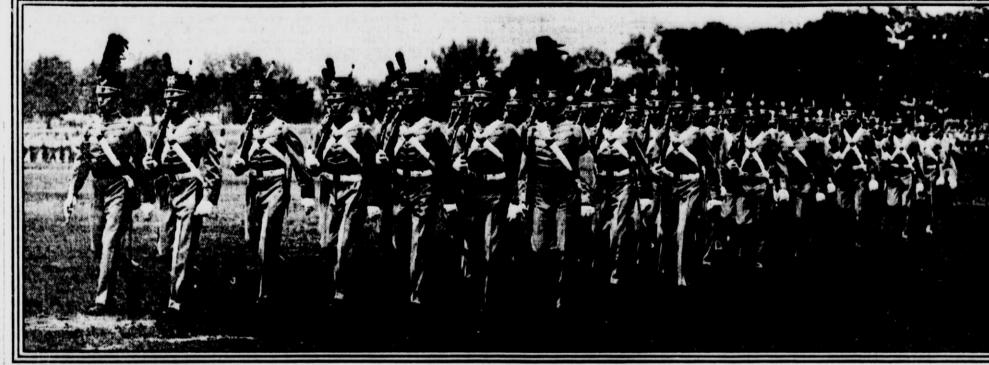
Jefferson Davis, afterward President of the Confederate States, had the distinction of being among the first batch of cadets court-martialled for midnight the post of West Point cadets slipped the post of West Point cadets slipped.

cipline and that unless he called a halt edge. No kings ever received more cadets who "ran it out" to his home told before leaping flames and song West Point. Here he lived in a small with a godspeed and a wish of good frame house until is death in 1877 at luck. the age of ninety. He was buried in Union Cemetery, about midway between Highland Falls and Fort Mont-

ument to his memory.

thing about Benny Havens, reve's at Benny Havens's, out of their beds after taps had sound-Benny was warned that his generosed and made their way over snow and will kindle at the mention of the ity to cadets was demoralizing to dis- ice to Benny's little home at the river's summary proceedings would result, royal welcome. Cakes and wine were and finally he was expelled from the was started as the blood grew warm post shortly after 1829, taking up his with the wine Benny provided. With abode at the base of a high cliff near the first intimations of dawn Benny the river's edge about a mile below sent his guests back to their quarters

> gomery on the West Point road. His such times Benny directed the cadets grave is to-day marked by a simple in their escape as coolly as if he were marble slab, but there is a proposal an old and seasoned officer. to remove his ashes to the West Point was only about twenty feet from the Cemetery and to erect a suitable mon- river, and in winter when the river That in brief is the story of Benny | down, leaving their skates on the bank



West Point cadets on the parade ground.

so that they could put them on swiftly Come, fill your glasses, fellows, and a stone's throw from the High Water and skate back to West Point in case of a raid.

his old flat bottomed boat. Occathe officers descended upon one of the dances a cadet hid under the wide hoop poem. One of the five original verses kirts worn by a lady with whom he was no doubt inspired by some of the was pirouetting.

leaving West Point—Grant, Fitzhugh Visitors at the Point, for it says:

Lee. Sherman, Custer and others—

To the ladies of the orange clime, let all spent happy hours in Benny's retreat. Who dares gainsay their peerless charms In 1838 Lieutenant Lucius O'Brien of must take a knightly blow; the Eighth United States Infantry paid We'll throw the gauntlet in their cause was then a first classman.

of dragoons, was brevetted for bravery Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma diring the Mexican war. Among those who graduated in the class with Arnold was P. G. T. Beauregard, who later became Superintendent of the Academy and a General in the Control of the Tampa's lonely shore.

academy at this time were John Benny.

Benny Havens, Lieut. O'Brien, Met- of these are: caife and Arnold together composed Here's a health to General Taylor, whose the original five verses of the song Benny Havens, Oh!" and set it to the tune of "The Wearing of the Green."

May his country ne'er forget his deeds An obituary notice of Dr. Metcalfe and ne'er forget to show says: "He had an early taste for She holds him worthy of a and a good tenor voice, composed many To the "vent, vidi, vici" man, to Scott, a ditty to pass away the idle time. It the greatest here. was thus that he wrote the celebrated song 'Benny Havens, Oh!'"

It is not what would be called good

May life's cares on his honored head fall

Some of the other verses are fraught with the magic spirit of West Point— that spirit that is best summed up in steps were never

class added a verse. In the waning attention to sterner things than poetry. Years of Benny's life almost every The ranks of the corps were thinned

Falls. Some of the verses were sung with glasses raised in toasting those whose deeds were recalled.

There are several verses that every West Pointer knows by heart, the first of them being:

To our comrades who have fallen, one cup hefore we go:

The poured their life blood freely.

"pro bono publico":

The pointer difference of the points the stranger to where they rest below.

There are several verses that every west Pointers.

Cushing, one of Benny's cronies, a mere stripling, fell at Gettysburg, wounded eleven times. He lies to-day

To our comrades who have fallen, one come whispering to us low.

That he of whom we oft have sung.

The pointer they rest below.

The pointer they rest

stand up in a row.

To singing sentimentally we're going for little gayety at Benny's during the Often Benny ferried his guests down In the Army there's sobriety, promotion's stern four years, for Benny was getvery slow, sionally there was a dance under his So we'll sing our reminiscences of Benny the loss of his former friends on the Havens, Oh!

This is also the first verse of the lightheartedness. Southern beauties who were occasional Many men who rose to fame after visitors at the Point, for it says:

a visit to Cadet Ripley A. Arnold, who was then a first classman.

Arnold became a Second Lieutenant

Benny Havens, Oh:

A few years after he had he ped to in the Indian wars in Florida in 1841 compose the original song Lieut. and again brevetted for gallant and O'Brien died in Florida during the cammeritorious conduct in the battles of paign against the Seminoles in 1841.

Academy and a General in the Con-lederate army.

Tampa's lonely shore.
It is the cry of gallant men, O'Brien

Thomas Metcalfe, who after gradua- Soon came along the Mexican war ion studied medicine and became one to furnish inspiration to the cadet his command: of the foremost surgeons in the poets. Several verses were added to country, and Irvin McDowell, who the poem in commemoration of the flashes out commanded the Union forces at the deeds of those whose gallantry carried first battle of Bull Run. Both Metcaife the American flag from Vera Cruz to and McDowell were great friends of the heights of Chapultepec, overlooking Montezuma's ancient capital. Two

rough and ready blow Struck terror to the rancheros of brag-

of which were composed before
Benny's death in 1877. Class after the Point and the cadets turned their Let us remember, comrades, when to our to tell it. It will never die; it is as night the cadets sang them through, crowding round Benny, with glasses full, while their host led them with his fiddle and his low clear barytone. The ranks of the corps were thinned by the loss of the Southerners, who went home to take up the cause of their respective States. Many of those his fiddle and his low clear barytone. The ranks of the corps were thinned o'er life's sea we row:

Hearts that now throb in unison must moulder down below.

So let us take a parting cup at Benny died a cadet moulder down below.

So let us take a parting cup at Benny memory of the man who realy inspired it: his fiddle and his low clear barytone. This fiddle, by the way, is still in postible of glory—Manassas, Antietam, Gettys
To our comrades who have fallen, one come whispering to us low come white which come whispering to us low come whispering to us l

ting old and the almost daily news of battlefield robbed him of his old time

Some of the verses of the poem whih were written just after the war are lost. There seems to be only the fol-

To the Army's brave commanders let now our glasses flow, We'll drink to Grant and Sherman and to the subs also: To Thomas, Meade and Sheridan (these

come in apropos).
We'll toast them all with gobiets full at Benny Havens, Oh.;
Early in 1866 Gen. Winfield Scott

ed. For him this verse appeared:

feels a heartfelt woe As we toast his name in reverence at Benny Havens, Oh!

During the last year of Benny's life came the stunning news that Custer May the army be augmented, promotion Arnold introduced O'Brien to Benny In the land of sun and flowers, his head James E. Porter, Harrington and Arnold introduced O'Brien to Benny Havens, a warm friendship at once springing up between the two. In the land of sun and flowers, his head lies pillowed low.

No more he'll sing "Petite Coquille" or academy at this time were John "Benny Havens, Oh!"

Is no more:

and his men had fought their last fight James E. Porter. Harrington and others, Lieutenants and West Pointers all, perished with that galant band a soldier's resting place beneath a soldier's blow.

No more he'll sing "Petite Coquille" or "Benny Havens, Oh!" all, perished with that gallant band | Not until Benny had died did these verses appear in memory of Custer and

flashes out

So swift to death brave Custer: amid Oh!" Since Benny's death these verses

join the friends of long ago.
To the land of Peace, where now he dwells with Benny Havens. Oh!

Their blood has watered Western plains

May their memory live forever with their glories present glow.

The sacred Montezuma shades and walls of Mexico.

dwell with Benny Havens, On! Some of the other verses are fraught | Stormy coast | Stormy coast | From lava beds are

poetry. Some of it is crude. To-day there are about fifty verses, almost all of which were composed before motto of the academy. Four of the

posts we go.

The ties that must be cut in twain as o'er life's sea we row;

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May our paths be pleasantness wherever we may go: . May our muster rolls in after years report "in statu quo" And goodly samples ever bring from Benny Havens, Oh!

And if amid the battle's shock our banand hearts that heat beneath its folds shall faint or basely fail.

Then may some son of Benny's with quick, avenging blow

Lift up the flag we loved so well at Benny Havens, Oh! Nowadays at West Point every cadet memorizes the first three verses of "Benny Havens, Oh!" The first

has already been given; the other two Another star has faded, we miss its brilliant glow.

For the veteran Scott has ceased to be a soldier here below:

And the country which be honored now feels a heartfelt woe.

As we toast his name in reverence at Benny Havens, Oh!

To our kind old Alma Mater, our rockbound Highland home.

May we east back many a fond regret as o'er life's sea we roam:

Intil on our last battlefield the lights of heaven shall glow

We'll never fail to drink to her and

Benny Havens, Oh!

With room enough beside our graves for Benny Havens, Oh! Wherever duty has led them West

the battle's shout
Death called—and, crowned, he went to the deeds of West Pointers in all parts

We'll drop a tear for Harrington and his comrades, Custer's braves
Who fell with none to see the deeds that glorified their graves;

May Their Harrington and Has Stained Sierra's highest peaks, where piercing winds e'er blow;
Has dyed deep red the Everglades, and deeper still you have the first peaks.

# SEARCHING FOR LOST POLICYHOLDERS

spends little time in perusing the paper, as it has a reasonable expectaon of being speedily, if not gently, notified of the maturity of a policy

by the death of the insured. As the organization of the oldest of the great life insurance companies in 1843 not until recent years has it bethe insured were still living he must under the American table and 3 per cent, at age 96.

o ascertain the facts. In addition ascertain how necessary a more comprobably many companies have in plete and general inquiry might be adforce hundreds, perhaps thousands, of visable. A considerable number of policies on the lives of persons of these persons were found to be still.

To these letters various sorts of replies were received; some stated that

policyholder whose address was un- tion, and if his identity was thus sat-

in tracing him.

The Connecticut Mutual recently that the insured had served in the insured had served in the paid two policies of this character on the life of a resident of New York that the insured had served in the insured had served had se

EVERY life insurance company is or quite concluded, and with highly probably carrying on its books as a liability thousands of dol
The first steps of the investigation in the first steps of the investigation in the first steps of the investigation in making formular company is or quite concluded, and with highly sity of sending to the insured at the unavoidably spending a period of respectively.

The first steps of the investigation is onable period without reply, two and in two cases after following clues are also in the concluded, and with highly same address, after waiting for a realization at the expense of the State.

The first steps of the investigation is onable period without reply, two and in two cases after following clues are also in the concluded in the conclusion in the concluded in the concluded in the conclusion in the conclus as a flability thousands of dollars representing policies issued on the lars representing policies issued on the lars representing policies in force upon the lives of persons, now deceased, under lives of persons who if living had reached that the

Senior cadets at target practice with the 6 inch rifles.

whose whereabouts they have not the dightest knowledge.

A life insurance company naturally of these cases the insured had decreased and when very hard a value. Several complaining letters were received after this sayle: ceased, and upon receipt of satisfactory proofs of death settlement was made.

The results attained in this preliminary inquiry made it apparent that reason to suppose that the man was not s a general, careful and systematic inwestigation should be instituted. Accould be corresponded by his applies. cordingly a card was prepared for each | could be corroborated by his applicacertain or unknown, on which was en- isfactorily established it became nectered such data, chiefly obtained from essary to convince him that he was the original application, as might aid actually insured. Several such cases were encountered. One reply was as After all available data was en follows: "Very clever, I will not

were traced through their assistance. In the people of Denver accepted him and the people of Denver accepted

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### ing it for three years the people of the city voted to abandon it on May PROBLEM Start by a large majority and to go back to the more centralized Mayor Continued from Second Page. form of municipal rule. Denver has

Now that Prussia has acquired such the cause of the reversion, the priformany need not have the same fear, they will get more for each dollar paid

the life of a resident of New York
State. As the insured had reached the
State. As the insured had reached the
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State as the insurance of his penelt, but satisfactorily proved his identity as the
State as the insurance of to assume that a man is living until the is proved to be dead, yet there is a friend named shad perhaps passed assumption correspondent to the control of the provided passed to the point where such assumption to prove that it is not intentionally stimp as a depository for unclaimed to give a point to give a point to great beyond.

I may be perhaps passed to the system that a man is living as a depository for unclaimed and to not the information and bathing become separated as the line of the point of the provided passed to the great beyond.

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I may be perhaps passed to the dead of the point of the provided passed to the system passed to the point of the provided passed to the system passed to the point of the passed to the system passed to

## lives of persons, now deceased, under which no claim has ever been made which undoubtedly no claim and under which undoubtedly no claim will ever be presented except through which in addresses were unknown, and was unpossibly the former communications a half mile of the home office. There Years but Found It Three Years, but Found It Too Expensive

Denver being one of the largest cities to adopt the commission form of government, the reasons why it has decided to go back to the old system are of importance to all persons interested in the study of municipal problems. These reasons are given in the accompanying article. Denver adopted the commission form of administration three years ago and voted to give it up on May 9 last.

Germany need not have the same fear they will get under the Mayor form than of Roman Catholic supremacy. They in taxes under the Mayor form than get as much as he could for his de-t Despite the fact that one Denver and extravagant. They remembered of Roman Catholic supremacy. They can look with equanimity upon a further increase in Roman Catholic political influence without fearing any lajury to their own national independence.

But the commission form to the supremacy. They can look with equanimity upon a further increase in Roman Catholic under the commission form to the annual budget and municipal government as a business proposition, an economic problem pendence.

Bet as much as he could for his defence on the annual budget and municipal government as a business proposition, an economic problem rather than one of politics or senting pendence.

Bet as much as he could for his defence on the annual budget and municipal government in the annual budget and fication against him in the recent electrons are showed little or no regard for the proposition, an economic problem rather than one of politics or senting pendence.

Bet as much as he could for his defence on the showed little or no regard for the annual budget and move partments. It is a particular to the commission form the flication against him in the recent electrons are showed little or no regard for the annual budget and move partments. It is a particular to the commission form the flication against him in the recent electrons are showed little or no regard for the flication against him in the recent electrons are showed little or no regard for the meanual budget and move partments. It is a particular to the commission form the flication against him in the recent electrons are showed little or no regard for the municipal government as a business proposition, an economic problem pendence. After all available data was en lawed runting he must have drunts of the fountain of youth which Ponce de Leon never succeeded in locating. Quite naturally, when the records of the company disclose that a man has reached the centre of the last known address of the last known ad

their criticisms caused his overthrow. In his place the people of Denver elected a reformer, Henry Arnold, as Mayor. Arnold carried every precinct except one. Ten months later he lost every precinct in the city by a larger majority than that by which is had previously carried them. Denver had declared the Mayor form of government a failure and gone into the col-umn of cities run by the commission Since then the pendulum has slowly